tion was made, namely, the US would not oppose basic human needs loans from international financial institutions.

In July 1998, the US Congress passed an amendment called "Agriculture Export Relief Act of 1998" which took out of the purview of "sanctions" any credit, credit guarantee or financial assistance to support the purchase of good or other agricultural commodities including fertilisers. Aslo exempted from "sanctions" were medicines and medical equipment.

On November 6, 1998, on the basis of authority given to the US President by the Brownback Amendment passed by the US Congress, partial lifting of "sanctions" was announced. The order given effect to these relaxations were signed by the US President on 1 December, 1998. These relaxations are:

- Restoration of US Exim Bank, Overseas Private Insurance Corporation (OPIC) and Trade Development Agency (TDA) Programmes
- Restoration of lending by US Banks
- Restoration of International Military Education and Training (IMET) Programme

The US Government stated that it was taking this step in recognition of the progress made in the dialogue with India.

On February 18, 1999, the US and other P-5 countries did not obstruct the approval of a World Bank loan for infrastructure and power development in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

No first use of nuclear weapons by India and China

1765. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China and India have lately committed to the 'No first use of Nuclear Weapons';

(b) if so, what further confidence building measures have been taken by India and China during the last three months; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to further strengthen ties between the two people and the nations and establishment of a peace security regime in Asia?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) India has announced a policy of 'no-first-use' and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states. China has committed itself to a policy of non-first of nuclear weapons and undertaken not to use, or threaten to use, nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon countries and nuclear weapon-free zones.

India remains committed to seeking good relations with all our neighbours, including China. We believe that the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, jointly enunciated by India and China are of continuing relevance to the development of our relations. We are committed to the resolution of outstanding differences through a process of dialogue.

Foreign Office Consultations in the framework of the Protocol on this subject concluded in August 1997, were held in Beijing on February 25-26, 1999. The talks covered bilateral, regional and international issues. The two sides agreed that the talks enchanced mutual understanding and on continuation of the dialogue at various levels.

The establishment of friendly, constructive, co-operative, good-neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China will contribute to the strengthening peace and stability in Asia.

भारत की विदेश नीति

1766. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार ने वर्तमान विदेश नीति किस वर्ष में बनाई थी और उसके मूलभूत उद्देश्य क्या थे;

(ख) क्या वर्तमान विदेश नीति उद्देश्य को पूरा करने में विफल साबित हुई है;

(ग) क्या सरकार नई विदेश नीति बनाने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(घ) उक्त नीति को कब तक तैयार किए जाने की संभावना है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) और (ख) हमारी विदेश नीति का बुनियादी सिद्धांत और उद्देश्य देश की क्षेत्रीय अखण्डता, सुरक्षा तथा एक बहुवादी प्रजातांत्रिक और धर्मनिरपेक्ष समाज, जिसमें न्याय और समानता के साथ लोगों का सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास सुनिश्चित किया जा सके, के रूप में राष्ट्रीय पहचान का संरक्षण करना है। स्वतंत्रता के बाद से ही हमारी विदेश नीति में स्वतंत्र कदमों तथा गुट-निरपेक्षता में अटूट विश्वास की झलक मिलती रही है। हालांकि विश्व में हो रहे परिवर्तनों और घटनाओं, जिसका प्रभाव हमारी नीति पर पड़ता है, के फलस्वरूप विदेश नीति में स्वाभाविक परिवर्तन होते रहते हैं, ऐसे नीति निर्धारण हमेशा से ही इन विदेश नीति के इन ज्ञात सिद्धांतों पर आधारित रहे हैं। विदेश नीति के हमारे बुनियादी उद्देश्य तथा सिद्धांत इच्छित उद्देश्यों की प्राप्त में हमेशा सहायक रहे हैं।

(ग) और (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति का भारत दौरा

1767. **श्री राजूभाई ए० परमार:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति बिल क्लिंटन ने इस वर्ष भारत आने की इच्छा जताई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री जसवन्त सिंह): (क) और (ख) अमरीका के राष्ट्रपति प्रधान मंत्री के साथ नियमित पत्राचार कर रहे हैं। अपने पत्राचार में अमरीका के राष्ट्रपति ने अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ निकट भविष्य में भारत की यात्रा करने की अपनी इच्छा व्यक्त की थी और यह कि यात्रा एक रचनात्मक वातावरण में हो। प्रधान मंत्री ने उनकी इच्छा का उसी भावना के साथ उत्तर दिया और भारत और अमरीका के बीच दोनों लोकतांत्रिकों के लाभ के अनुरूप व्यापक आधार पर संबंध रखने की भारत की इच्छा को दोहराया।

China's View on Sikkim Status

1768. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Hindustan Times dated 29th January, 1999 under the caption "China may back Sikkim Status";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and facts of the matter; and

(c) the details of fresh initiatives taken by Government to normalise and improve bilateral relations with China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) China has not formally recognised Sikkim as part of India. The fact that Sikkim is an integral part of India has been made clear to the Chinese Government at various levels.

(c) We seek friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relations with China, on the basis of Panchsheel, In this framework, we are making consistent efforts for further improvemnt of bilateral relations, including measures to expand trade and enhance exchanges in various fields. The two countries are in regular contact through diplomatic and non-official channels and, at various other levels. Exchanges or visits of Parliamentarians, people-to-eople exchanges, visits of political party delegatins and functional contacts in other fields are also taking place. Bilateral trade has grown steadily, and reached US $ 1.92 billion in 1998, representing an increase of 5% over 1997. There is considerable potential to expand our economic and commercial co-operation.

Up-keep of Hindu, Sikh Shrines in Pakistan

1769. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan the question of up keep of Hindu Sikh shrines in Pakistan was discussed;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and